

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 631

S.P. 195

In Senate, February 23, 1993

An Act to Protect Consumers when Disconnecting Cable Television Services.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Utilities suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senators: PARADIS of Aroostook, VOSE of Washington, Representatives:
CLARK of Millinocket, HOGLUND of Portland, MORRISON of Bangor.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

Whereas, some cable television companies do not discontinue
billing for a service until the company actually makes the
physical disconnection; and

Whereas, this disconnection can take a considerable time; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §3010, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Service disconnection. A franchisee must discontinue
billing a consumer for any service within 10 working days after
the consumer requests that service disconnected.

Sec. 2. Retroactivity. This Act is retroactive to January 1,
1992. A franchisee billing in violation of this Act must refund
overcharges to consumers within 90 days of the effective date of
this Act.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires cable television companies to stop
billing consumers for services with 10 days after the consumer
requests the service to be disconnected. This provision would be
retroactive to January 1, 1992.